

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 13:5-13

- It's interesting that sandwiched between the Apostle Paul talking about the spiritual gifts being distributed amongst the body Christ is this chapter about **what Love is**, and **what it is not**. In fact, understanding **biblical love** is so important that a misunderstanding of it causes the usage of the spiritual gifts to become null in void.
- What a powerful statement that is, because the Corinthian Church were exercising the gifts, the problem was often they were being practiced in an unloving way. Which is why he ended chapter twelve with the statement "**And yet I show you a more excellent way**" meaning the demonstration of love is superior to any spiritual gift.

V5-13

- Last week we saw two things love is > **1. Patient, 2. Kind**, one means the capacity to be wronged and not retaliate, remember they had been suing one another when members wronged them, and the other is showing a tenderness in empathizing with the plight of someone who is in need of your help. Then we read three things love is not > **1. Envious, 2. Self-seeking, 3. Arrogant**, all three of these sins are rooted in pride. Also each of these characteristics accomplish nothing except pain and hurt.
- **V5** he continues the thought of what love is not > **4. Inconsiderate**- a person that acts without regard for others, they are thoughtless and often rash totally oblivious of the feelings of others, to put it plainly without manners. **5. No self-advertisement** > **Rom 12:10** says believers are to display the opposite of these by promoting and preferring others over ourselves, sadly like the Corinthians many in the Church don't
- **6. Not easily provoked**- if your moody, easily irritated or angered, a bit touchy this verse is for you, but that's my personality, how I was brought up, thankfully all those things don't have to cause permanent damage, we can recover > **2 Cor 5:17. 7. Thinks no evil**- doesn't store up wrongs or always seeing the worst in a person or situation. These are folks who often hold grudges from past wrongs.
- **V6 8. Does not rejoice in evil**- they don't enjoy involving others in wrong doing, or hearing about others doing wrong, as evil is not welcomed, therefore they don't laugh at or mock sin. The reason being is this kind of love is pure.

- To show it Paul will mention six more things love is > **1. Rejoices in the truth**- Agape love cause us to want to see truth triumph over lies and falsehoods. **V7 2. Bears all things**- bear can be translated “cover” **1Pet 4:8**- love covers a multitude of sins. **3. Believes all things** – we never believe a lie, but we ever should believe evil unless the facts demand it, as we should believe the best of others, I know that can be hard
- **4. Hopes all things**- love has confidence in the future not pessimism, when hurt it doesn't say “I guess it will be like this forever, maybe even get worse” it hopes for the best because its hope is in God. **5. Endures all things**- in the way of trials and ill treatment, so even when things are not good, you stay in there expecting for the best
- Many can bear, believe, and hope, but if were being honest its only for a while, as these things have a shelf life. The beauty of Agape love is it keep on bearing, believing, hoping, and enduring, as it doesn't give up or give in from the circumstances or the weariness, how do you know?
- **V8 6. Love never fails**- love will last even in eternity, everything else we won't need in glory, including the gifts, they are only beneficial on this side of eternity, but not in glory. As Paul goes on to say prophecies will fail, tongues will cease, and knowledge will pass away. **V9-10** right now in this life our knowledge is partial at best, as there are so many things we just don't understand and are very unclear to us.
- But when that which is Perfect has come then that which is in part will be done away. Many will use this verse to say this is our proof that the miraculous gifts ceased with the Apostles and the completion of the New Testament scriptures.
- But the scripture says these things will fail, cease and pass away when that which is perfect has come, Paul just said we only know in part because our knowledge is partial, that means that which is perfect has not come yet, because its not talking about the completion of the canon of scripture its speaking of Jesus return for us.
- Once He returns we won't need the gifts, any of them, but according to some although we have that which is perfect now we still need some of the gifts but not the miraculous? It doesn't make sense, we still need some of the spiritual gifts but not all, its clear to me that this speaks of the return of Christ then and only then do we have no need of anything save Him Amen!

- **V11-13** Paul now compares life to childhood, when our speech, thoughts and understanding was limited by immaturity, we could only comprehend but so much, as we saw things dimly and much was blurry. But once we became adults things became much clearer, our understanding of so much made so much more sense.
- Right now without Jesus being here our understanding is very limited, its like having a mirror but its dimly lit so we can only see but so much. When Jesus returns Paul says then all our questions will be answered, everything will be cleared up, the need for spiritual gifts will have vanished, as we will see Him face to face, having perfect clarity, then I shall know as I am known. God knows everything about us, and one day I will know Him perfectly without doubt, and anxiety, perfect clarity wow!